

Appl. No. 10/657,231
Amendment dated: November 2, 2004
Reply to OA of: August 12, 2004


REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of claim 29 and the indication that claims 8-10, 13, 15-22 and 25-28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant has made every effort to gain early allowance of the application by canceling claim 30 and incorporating the limitation of allowable claim 8 into claim 1 thereby making claim 1 allowable. All other claims should now be allowable as they are either directly or indirectly dependent upon allowable claim 1.

The rejection of claims 1-7, 11, 12, 14, 23, 24 and 30 under U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fig. 1, Applicant's admitted prior art. This rejection is most respectfully traversed in view of the amendment to claim 1 wherein Applicant's admitted prior art fails to teach the first side surface is adjacent to the second side surface. All other remaining claims are either directly or indirectly dependent upon claim 1 thereby making all the claims allowable. Accordingly, it is most respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above comments and further amendments to the claims, favorable reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims now present in the application are most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

By: 
Richard E. Fichter
Registration No. 26,382

625 Slaters Lane, 4th Fl.
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Phone: (703) 683-0500
Facsimile: (703) 683-1080
REF:kdd
A02.wpd
November 2, 2004